

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sipler, Chair
Karen Gray
Lew Halprin
Bob Walrath
Linda Hathaway, Town Clerk

Bill Byron, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Liz Moseley, Associate
Dorothy Spaulding, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Genealogist

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stow's Historical Commission is responsible for the preservation and protection of Stow's historical and archaeological resources. As part of our task of documentation and research this year we are overseeing a town-wide historical inventory.

Historical Inventory: The Historical Commission has entered into a contract with Public Archaeology Survey Team to do a town-wide historical inventory. Phase I is nearly complete.

Blacksmith Shop: The Peter Larsen Blacksmith Shop has been moved to Shelburne Farm on West Acton Road to be preserved by the Painter family.

Stone Building/Apple Barn: Despite our best efforts, it appears that this building will be demolished to expand the parking lot at the new Center School.

Stow Musket: We have been unable to find a suitable secure location to display this important piece of Stow's history. Perhaps it is time for a museum.

Lower Village Cemetery: Community Preservation Funds were used to rebuild another section of the stone wall along Great Road. We are very pleased with this project.

West School: This year the West School Museum summer event series went under new leadership, with the triumvirate of Ralph Fuller and Linda Stokes of the Historical Society, and Karen Gray as liaison from the Historical Commission, arranging the programs. The four events held were all quite successful, beginning with a very enjoyable evening with Jan Turnquist interpreting Louisa May Alcott to a nearly full house.

The second program was a particularly delightful one for children. Under the leadership of Linda Stokes, members of the Stow Minutemen and friends demonstrated crafts of the Colonial era. There were many opportunities for young visitors to actually participate in the activities. The spinners of Stow group also demonstrated spinning and weaving.

The highest attendance of the year was the Art and Photography show organized by Ralph Fuller in August. Awards were given by vote of those attending.

The September program was the "Dame School". This was a variation on the theme of past years of hosting a "back to school" Victorian era program. Once again this was a very participatory program for youngsters.

The Historical Commission is looking forward to a continuation of the programs in 2011 under the same leadership.

These programs are made possible largely through a generous a grant from the Stow Cultural Council, a local agency, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Fletcher, Chairman

Daisy Dearborn

Leslie Kriebel

Dorothy Spaulding

Linda Stokes, resigned

Ralph Fuller, resigned

Susan McLaughlin, resigned

Karen Gray, Associate

Lewis Halprin, Associate and Treasurer

John Makey, Associate

Janet Stiles, Associate resigned